

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows. A marked-up copy of each amended claim is attached (Attachment II). Please cancel claims 26 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer. For the Examiner's convenience, each pending claim is reproduced herein.

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1. (Twice Amended) A process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface element, which element comprises a base layer and a decorative upper surface, the process comprising,
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- i) providing the decorative upper surface with a decor layer, the decor layer comprising a pattern;
 - ii) printing a wetting repellant lacquer in a predetermined pattern on the decorative upper surface, at least partially matching the pattern on the decor layer, the wetting repellant covering only part of the decorative upper surface, and thereafter
 - ii) applying a wear layer of a UV or electron beam curing lacquer on top of the decorative upper surface, which UV or electron beam curing lacquer is repelled from the part of the surface being covered by the wetting repellant lacquer whereby a surface feature is achieved.
2. (Three Times Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said UV or electron beam curing lacquer consists of one selected from the group consisting of an acrylic, epoxy and a maleimide lacquer.
3. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the applying step comprises multiple applications of the wear layer with intermediate partial curing between each of the multiple applications.
4. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the wear layer includes hard particles having a hardness greater than the hardness of the cured wear layer with an average particle size in the range of 50 nm - 150 μ m.
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5. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the hard particles comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of diamond, silicon oxide, α -aluminum oxide and silicon carbide.

6. (Three Times Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein a first amount of the hard particles consist of one selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, α -aluminum oxide and silicon carbide, while a smaller amount of the hard particles consist of diamond.

7. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the hard particles consist of diamond, having an average particle size in the range of 50 nm - 2 μ m, and are placed close to the upper surface of the wear layer, such that the hard particles provide the wear layer with abrasion resistance.

8. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer comprises a UV or electron beam curing lacquer and a silicone polymer.

9. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer comprises UV or electron beam curing acrylic, epoxy or a maleimide lacquer.

10. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer is translucent.

11. (Three Times Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer is translucent in at least one part and transparent or opaque in at least one other part.

12. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer comprises a matting agent, whereby the matting agent creates a structure enhancing shadow effect.

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13. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer includes a matting agent, whereby the matting agent creates a structure enhancing effect.

14. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer is cured before the step where the wear layer is applied.

15. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the decor layer is produced from a digitally stored original, that the digitally stored original is processed in order to achieve a digital structure original whereby a surface structure that matches the decor is achieved through one or more processes selected from the group consisting of printing, embossing, molding, and rolling of at least a portion of the digital structure original.

16. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the printing comprises applying the wetting repellent lacquer by means of an ink-jet printer.

17. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base layer consists of a particle board or a fibre board.

18. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base layer comprises a polymer.

19. A process according to claim 1, wherein, the decor layer is formed by a process comprising processing a digitally stored image.

20. A process according to claim 19, wherein the digitally stored image resembles a structure selected from the group consisting of wood and minerals.

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21. A process according to claim 19, wherein the processing comprises editing the digitally stored image by at least one selected from the group consisting of digitizing a number of wood grains, scanning a desired pattern, changing color tones, adjusting contrast, dividing the image into smaller images and adding other decorative elements.

22. A process according to claim 19, wherein the digitally stored image comprises dark sections and light sections and the printing comprises depositing the wetting repellent lacquer on the dark sections.

23. A process according to claim 1, wherein the decor layer comprises a wood pattern, comprising one or more selected from the group consisting of knots, cracks, flaws and grains.

24. A process according to claim 23, wherein said printing comprises applying the wetting repellent lacquer in a configuration identical to the pattern in the decor layer.

25. (Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein said printing comprises applying the wetting repellent lacquer in a configuration to enhance the pattern.

26. A process for process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface element comprising:

applying a primer to a panel to form a primed panel;
providing a decor layer on the primer, the decor layer comprising a pattern;
printing wetting repellent lacquer on parts of the primed panel, matching the decor layer;
placing a layer of UV or electron curing lacquer on the wetting repellent lacquer, whereby the UV or electron beam curing lacquer is repelled from the parts of the primed panel where the wetting repellent lacquer has been printed; and
curing the UV or electron curing lacquer.

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